

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0008] bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following new paragraph:

[0008] However, in ultramicrotomy a different problem arises which does not occur in microtomy: the problem of section compression. This phenomenon occurs at a thickness of the sections below 100 nm. Depending on the mechanical properties of the sample (flexibility) and on the sectioning angle ϕ of the knife the sections undergo considerable distortion (compression) during cutting (Fig. 8) (~~Fig. 1~~). In Fig. 8 ~~[[1]]~~, 1 designates the diamond blade or knife with the cutting edge 2. 3 is the sample. The sample 3 may be one of a great variety of industrial or biological samples. A is the vertical movement of the sample 3. 4 is the cut section floating on a waterbed 5. 6 designates the direction of compression in the section 4. 7 is a region of intense shearing, and 8 is the region of compression in the sample 3.

Please replace paragraphs [0018] and [0019] on page 4 with the following new paragraphs:

[0018] Fig. 6 is a side view of a third embodiment according to the present invention; ~~and~~

[0019] Fig. 7 is a front view of the third embodiment of Fig. 6; and

Please add the following new paragraph immediately following replacement paragraph [0019]:

--Fig. 8 is a schematic diagram depicting the cutting action of a blade or knife according to the prior art.--